



Road Traffic Act 1972

CHAPTER 20

ROAD TRAFFIC ACT 1972

PART I

PRINCIPAL ROAD SAFETY PROVISIONS

Offences connected with driving of motor vehicles

- 1 Causing death by reckless or dangerous driving
- 2 Reckless, and dangerous, driving generally
- 3 Careless, and inconsiderate, driving
- 4 Driving under age
- 5 Driving, or being in charge, when under influence of drink or drugs
- 6 Driving, or being in charge, with blood-alcohol concentration above the prescribed limit
- 7 Evidence on charge of unfitness to drive
- 8 Breath tests
- 9 Laboratory tests
- 10 Ancillary provisions as to evidence in proceedings for an offence under s.5 or 6
- 11 Detention of persons while affected by alcohol
- 12 Interpretation of ss.6 to 11
- 13 Person liable to be charged with offence under ss.5, 6 or 9 not liable to be charged with certain other offences
- 14 Motor racing on highways
- 15 Regulation of motoring events on highways
- 16 Restriction on carriage of persons on motorcycles

Offences connected with riding of pedal cycles

- 17 Reckless, and dangerous, cycling

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- 18 Careless, and inconsiderate, cycling
- 19 Cycling when under influence of drink or drugs
- 20 Regulation of cycle racing on highways
- 21 Restriction on carriage of persons on bicycles

Offences connected with traffic generally

- 22 Drivers to comply with traffic directions
- 23 Pedestrians to comply with directions to stop given by constables regulating vehicular traffic
- 24 Leaving vehicles in dangerous positions

Accidents

- 25 Duty to stop, and furnish particulars, in case of accident
- 26 General provisions as to accident inquiries
- 27 Special provisions as to accident inquiries in Greater London
- 28 Inquests on road deaths in Greater London

Ancillary provisions for preventing, or mitigating effects of, accidents

- 29 Penalisation of tampering with motor vehicles
- 30 Penalisation of holding or getting on to vehicle in order to be towed or carried
- 31 Control of dogs on roads
- 32 Wearing of protective headgear
- 33 Protective helmets for motor cyclists

Manning of locomotives and trailers

- 34 Requirements as to employment of persons to attend to locomotives and trailers

Restrictions on use of motor vehicles off roadway

- 35 Control of use of footpaths and bridleways for motor vehicle trials
- 36 Prohibition of driving motor vehicles elsewhere than on roads

Road safety information and road training

- 37 The Highway Code
- 38 Powers of Secretary of State and local authorities as to giving road safety information and training
- 39 Powers of Secretary of State to subsidise bodies other than local authorities for giving road safety information and training

PART II

CONSTRUCTION AND USE OF VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT

General provisions

- 40 Regulation of construction, weight, equipment and use of vehicles
- 41 Temporary exemption from application of regulations under s.40
- 42 Authorisation of use on roads of special vehicles not complying with regulations under s.40

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- 43 Tests of satisfactory condition of vehicles other than goods vehicles to which s.45 applies
- 44 Obligatory test certificates for vehicles other than goods vehicles to which s.45 applies
- 45 Tests of satisfactory condition of certain classes of goods vehicles and determination of plated weights and other particulars therefor
- 46 Obligatory test certificates for goods vehicles to which s.45 applies
- 47 Approval of design, construction, etc., of goods vehicles
- 48 Supplementary provisions as to type approval and other certificates
- 49 Appeals
- 50 Regulations for purposes of ss.47 to 49 and other supplementary provisions
- 51 Obligatory type approval, manufacturers' and Minister's approval, certificates
- 52 Regulations prohibiting the grant of excise licences for certain vehicles except on compliance with certain conditions
- 53 Testing of condition of vehicles on roads
- 54 Remedying of defects discovered on roadside tests
- 55 Tests to check whether defects have been remedied
- 56 Power to inspect goods vehicles to secure proper maintenance
- 57 Power to prohibit the driving of unfit goods vehicles
- 58 Removal of prohibition of driving of unfit goods vehicle
- 59 Operators' duty to inspect, and keep records of inspections of, goods vehicles
- 60 Vehicles not to be sold in unroadworthy condition or altered so as to be unroadworthy
- 61 Testing condition of used vehicles at sale rooms, etc.
- 62 Goods vehicles not to be sold without required manufacturer's or Minister's approval certificate
- 63 Approval marks
- 64 Provisions as to proceedings for certain offences in connection with goods vehicles
- 65 Restriction on number of trailers drawn

Provisions as to pedal cycles and horse-drawn vehicles

- 66 Regulation of brakes, bells, etc., on pedal cycles
- 67 Regulation of brakes on horse-drawn vehicles

Provisions as to lighting of vehicles

- 68 Obligatory front and rear lamps and headlamps
- 69 Obligatory reflectors
- 70 Restriction on the nature of the lamps to be carried
- 71 Restriction on movement of lamps
- 72 Multi-purpose lamps and combined lamps and reflectors
- 73 Regulation of position, character, use, etc., of lamps and reflectors
- 74 Bicycles, tricycles and invalid carriages
- 75 Horse-drawn agricultural vehicles
- 76 Vehicles carrying overhanging or projecting loads
- 77 Vehicles towing and being towed
- 78 Power of exemption and variation of requirements
- 79 Power to impose additional requirements for vehicles over prescribed length and trailers

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- 80 Application of ss.68 to 79 to reflecting material
- 81 Offences

Supplementary

- 82 Interpretation of Part II
- 83 Administrative expenses, appointment of officials and destination of fees

PART III

LICENSING OF DRIVERS OF VEHICLES

Driving licences

- 84 Drivers of motor vehicles to have driving licences
- 85 Tests of competence to drive
- 86 Repayment of test fees
- 87 Requirements as to physical fitness of drivers
- 88 Grant of licences
- 89 Duration of licences
- 90 Appeals relating to licences
- 91 Driving with uncorrected defective eyesight
- 92 Notification of disease or disability

Disqualification and endorsement of licences

- 93 Disqualification on conviction of certain offences
- 94 Appeal against disqualification, and rule for determining end of period thereof
- 95 Removal of disqualification
- 96 Disqualification of persons under age
- 97 Disqualification to prevent duplication of licences
- 98 Effect of disqualification
- 99 Offence of obtaining licence, or driving, while disqualified
- 100 Arrest without warrant of persons driving while disqualified
- 101 Endorsement of licences
- 102 Combination of disqualification and endorsement with probation orders and orders for discharge in England or Wales
- 103 Interim disqualification on committal in England or Wales under s.56 of Criminal Justice Act 1967, etc.
- 104 Information as to date of birth and sex
- 105 Supplementary provisions as to disqualifications and endorsements

Supplementary

- 106 Conduct of proceedings in certain courts by or against the Secretary of State
- 107 Regulations for purposes of Part III
- 108 Destination of fees for licences, etc., under Part III
- 109 Service of notices
- 110 Interpretation of Part III
- 111 Provisions as to Northern Ireland drivers' licences

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PART IV

LICENSING OF DRIVERS OF HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES

- 112 Drivers of heavy goods vehicles to be licensed
- 113 Licensing authority, and applications, for heavy goods vehicle driver's licences
- 114 Grant of heavy goods vehicle drivers' licences
- 115 Duration of heavy goods vehicle drivers' licences
- 116 Disqualification on revocation of heavy goods vehicle driver's licence
- 117 Court may determine whether test of competence to drive was properly conducted
- 118 Appeals relating to heavy goods-vehicle drivers' licences
- 119 Regulations for purposes of Part IV
- 120 Fees and expenses
- 121 Common test of competence to drive for the purposes of Parts III and IV
- 122 Transitional provisions as to certain heavy goods vehicle drivers' licences
- 123 Restriction on institution of proceedings for certain offences
- 124 Interpretation of Part IV
- 125 Provisions as to Northern Ireland heavy goods vehicle drivers' licences

PART V

DRIVING INSTRUCTION

- 126 Driving instruction for payment to be given only by registered or licensed persons
- 127 Exemption of police instructors from prohibition imposed by s.126
- 128 The register and registration and duration thereof
- 129 Extension of duration of registration
- 130 Removal of names from register
- 131 Licences
- 132 Appeals
- 133 Examinations and tests of ability to give driving instruction
- 134 Power to alter conditions for entry or retention in, and removal from, register and grant or revocation of licences
- 135 Power to prescribe form of certificate of registration, etc.
- 136 Surrender of certificate and licences
- 137 Production of certificate and licences to constables and authorised persons
- 138 Evidence by certificate as to registration and licences
- 139 Offences by corporations
- 140 Service of notices
- 141 Expenses and receipts
- 142 Regulations for purposes of Part V

PART VI

THIRD-PARTY LIABILITIES

Compulsory insurance or security against third-party risks

- 143 Users of motor vehicles to be insured or secured against third-party risks
- 144 Exceptions from requirement of third-party insurance or security
- 145 Requirements in respect of policies of insurance

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- 146 Requirements in respect of securities
- 147 Issue and surrender of certificates of insurance and of security
- 148 Avoidance of certain exceptions to policies or securities and of certain agreements, etc., as to risks required to be covered thereby
- 149 Duty of insurers or persons giving security to satisfy judgment against persons insured or secured against third-party risks
- 150 Bankruptcy, etc., of insured or secured persons not to affect claims by third parties
- 151 Duty to give information as to insurance or security where claim made
- 152 Deposits
- 153 Power to require evidence of insurance or security on application for vehicle excise licence

Payments for treatment of traffic casualties

- 154 Payment for hospital treatment of traffic casualties
- 155 Payment for emergency treatment of traffic casualties
- 156 Supplementary provisions as to payments for treatment

Supplementary

- 157 Regulations for purposes of Part VI
- 158 Interpretation of Part VI

PART VII

MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL

Furnishing of information and production of documents

- 159 Power of police to stop vehicles
- 160 Weighing of motor vehicles
- 161 Power of constables to require production of driving licences and in certain cases statement of date of birth
- 162 Power of constables to obtain names and addresses of drivers and others, and to require production of evidence of insurance or security and test certificates
- 163 Powers of certifying officers and examiners as respects goods vehicles
- 164 Penalisation of failure to give name and address, and power of arrest, in case of dangerous or careless driving or cycling, etc.
- 165 Pedestrian contravening constable's direction to stop to give name and address
- 166 Duty of driver, in case of accident involving injury to another, to produce evidence of insurance or security or to report accident
- 167 Duty of owner of motor vehicle to give information for verifying compliance with requirement of compulsory insurance or security
- 168 Duty to give information as to identity of driver, etc. in certain cases

Forgery, false statements, etc.

- 169 Forgery of documents, etc.
- 170 False statements and withholding material information
- 171 Issue of false documents
- 172 Using goods vehicle with unauthorised weights as well as authorised weights marked thereon

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- 173 Power to seize articles with respect to which offences under ss.169 to 171 may have been committed
- 174 Personation of, or of person employed by, authorised examiner

Offences in Scotland

- 175 Taking motor vehicle without authority, etc.
- 176 Penalty for aiding, abetting, etc. commission of offences

Prosecution and punishment of offences and other provisions relating to legal proceedings, etc.

- 177 Prosecution and punishment of offences
- 178 Penalty for breach of regulations
- 179 Restrictions on prosecutions for certain offences
- 180 Time within which summary proceedings for certain offences must be commenced
- 181 Evidence by certificate
- 182 Admissibility of records as evidence
- 183 Proof, in summary proceedings, of identity of driver of vehicle
- 184 Jurisdiction of courts of summary jurisdiction in Scotland for certain offences
- 185 Destination of fines

Inquiries

- 186 General power to hold inquiries
- 187 General provisions as to inquiries

Application to the Crown

- 188 Application to Crown
- 189 Application of ss.6 to 11 to persons subject to service discipline

Interpretation

- 190 Interpretation of expressions relating to motor vehicles and classes thereof
- 191 Articulated vehicles
- 192 Hover vehicles
- 193 Certain vehicles not to be treated as motor vehicles
- 194 Method of calculating weight of motor vehicles and trailers
- 195 Interpretation of statutory references to carriages
- 196 General interpretation provisions
- 197 Effect of certain references to Scottish local authorities

Exclusion of application of certain provisions to tramcars, trolley vehicles, etc.

- 198 Exclusion of application of certain provisions to tramcars, trolley vehicles, etc.

Supplementary

- 199 Exercise of regulation-making powers and Parliamentary control thereover
- 200 Provision, etc. of weighbridges

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- 201 Provisions as to Thames embankment
- 202 Protection of public interests
- 203 Consequential and other amendments of other Acts
- 204 Transitory modifications of this Act
- 205 General repeals, revocations, savings and transitional provisions
- 206 Saving for s.38 of Interpretation Act 1889
- 207 Saving for law of nuisance
- 208 Commencement
- 209 Short title and extent

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1 — Supplementary Provisions in connection with Proceedings for Offences under Section 33

- 1 (1) A person against whom proceedings are brought in England...
- 2 (1) Where proceedings are brought in England or Wales against...
- 3 (1) Where a contravention of the principal section committed by...
- 4 (1) Subject to the provisions of this paragraph, in any...
- 5 (1) An accused who in any proceedings for an offence...

SCHEDULE 2 — Travelling, etc., Allowances for Attendance at Road Safety Conferences

- 1 (1) Where arrangements made by a local authority under section...
- 2 Expenditure incurred by a local or other authority in the...
- 3 In this Schedule " local or other authority " means...

SCHEDULE 3 — Deferred Tests of Condition of Vehicles

- 1 Where the driver is the owner of the vehicle, he...
- 2 Where the driver is not the owner of the vehicle,...
- 3 (1) Where under the foregoing provisions of this Schedule a...
- 4 It shall be the duty of the owner of the...
- 5 References in this Schedule to the owner of a vehicle...

SCHEDULE 4 — Prosecution and Punishment of Offences

PART I

Offences under this Act

PART II

Other Offence Involving Obligatory Disqualification and Endorsement

PART III

Other Offences Involving Discretionary Disqualification and Obligatory Endorsement

- 1 Stealing or attempting to steal a motor vehicle.
- 2 An offence, or attempt to commit an offence, in respect...
- 3 An offence under section 25 of the Theft Act 1968...
- 4 An offence under section 13(4) of the Road Traffic Regulation...
- 5 An offence under section 23(5) of the Road Traffic Regulation...
- 6 An offence under section 25(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation...
- 7 An offence under section 26(6) or 26A(5) of the Road...

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- 8 An offence punishable by virtue of section 78A of the...
PART IV

Supplementary provisions as to prosecution, trial and punishment of offences

- 1 Upon the trial of a person who is indicted for...
2 If upon the trial in Scotland of a person for...
3 A contravention occurring in Scotland of any of the provisions...
4 Where a person is charged in England or Wales before...
5 Where a person is prosecuted on indictment in England or...
6 In Scotland a person may be convicted of an offence...
7 A person may be convicted of an offence against section...
8 If on the trial of an indictment in Scotland for...
PART V

Interpretation

- 1 For the purposes of the entries in Part I of...
2 "Construction and use requirement" has the same meaning for...

SCHEDULE 5 — Transitional Provisions Relating to Licences to Drive Heavy Goods Vehicles

- 1 On the first application for a heavy goods vehicle driver's...
2 The reference in paragraph 1 above to the driving of...
3 A person shall not be entitled to a licence to...
4 The Secretary of State may by regulations restrict the class...
5 Neither subsection (1) nor subsection (2) of section 112 of...
6 With a view to spreading the work of granting heavy...

SCHEDULE 6 — Appeals under Section 132 against Decisions of the Registrar

- 1 On an appeal under section 132 of this Act, the...
2 (1) The Secretary of State shall refer every such appeal...
3 The Secretary of State may by rules made by statutory...
4 The Secretary of State may on an appeal under the...
5 Section 187 of this Act, in its application to an...

SCHEDULE 7 — Consequential Amendments of other Acts

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The Roads and Bridges (Scotland) Act 1878

The Burgh Police (Scotland) Act 1892

The Local Government (Scotland) Act 1947

The Road Traffic Act 1960

The Administration of Justice Act 1965

The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1967

The Criminal Justice Act 1967

The Firearms Act 1968

The Countryside Act 1968

The Transport Act 1968

The Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970

The Vehicles (Excise) Act 1971

SCHEDULE 8 — Transitory Modifications of this Act

- 1 Section 44 shall have effect as if subsection (3)(b) were...
- 2 Sections 54 and 55 shall be omitted.
- 3 (1) In relation to vehicles in respect of which section...
- 4 Section 105 shall have effect as if—
- 5 Part VI of this Act shall have effect until 1st...

SCHEDULE 9 — Repeals and Revocations

PART I — ENACTMENTS REPEALED

PART II — ORDERS REVOKED

SCHEDULE 10 — Savings and Transitional Provisions

- 1 In so far as any order, regulation, rule, agreement, application,...
- 2 Nothing in this Act shall affect the enactments repealed thereby...
- 3 Where any enactment or document refers, whether specifically or by...
- 4 (1) Without prejudice to paragraph 1 above, any reference in...
- 5 For the purpose of determining— (a) the punishment (by fine,...
- 6 Sections 95 and 99 of this Act shall apply to...
- 7 (1) Without prejudice to section 95 of this Act, any...
- 8 A licence to drive a motor vehicle which was in...
- 9 Any record kept under an enactment repealed by this Act...
- 10 Section 249 of the Road Traffic Act 1960 (general provision...
- 11 Nothing in section 154 or 155 of this Act or...